

YEAR 2000 COMPUTER PROBLEM:

SURVEY

The IT office conducted a more thorough IFAS survey regarding the status of the Y2K problem. This was in response to an inquiry from the Provost office concerning our quarterly reports required by the state. Previous requests did not produce many reports. At that time only about 800 PCs had been tested and reported in the previous year. No units had completed their testing. Many had not even started.

The latest response was a vast improvement and indicates that more than 1900 PCs have been tested and 5% are non-compliant and need to be repaired or replaced. Current results show:

4 of 19 departments

7 of 18 support units

2 of 15 research centers

19 of 68 extension offices

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only 32 of 120 locations have completed their Y2K testing.

Also,

5 of 19 departments

0 of 18 support units

3 of 15 research centers

9 of 68 extension offices

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17 of 120 locations have never submitted any Y2K report.

The remaining 71 locations have only partially completed the testing and reporting. Complete results can be found at <http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/y2k/report.htm>

NOTE - The state expects 100% Y2K compliance by July, 1999.

PUBLICATIONS

A series of Y2K publications are being developed as Extension Fact Sheets. So far, 2 have been completed, 1 is going through editorial review and at least 2 more are under development. EMS has been helpful in getting these new publications edited and ready for EDIS.

1. Y2K - The Year-2000 Computer Problem Explained. (completed)

2. Personal Preparation for the Y2K Storm. (completed)
3. Testing PC Hardware for the Y2K Bug. (editorial review)

TRAINING

General Y2K training was provided at a District I extension meeting. Y2K questions are on the increase in extension offices. To provide information and support the IT office will give more extensive Y2K training for extension agents and has been scheduled for April 21 & 29. If funds are available the interactive video system will be used.

Otherwise, the Gainesville session will be held and video taped for distribution to those unable to attend.

OUTREACH - During the last year there has been an increasing awareness of the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer related flaw that can cause serious problems. To help inform and prepare our clientele, IFAS extension (represented by IFAS Information Technology) is working cooperatively with the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) as part of a state and national Y2K outreach initiative. This team has been meeting regularly to develop a training plan for the state and secure funds to support the effort.

The solutions being developed include participation at a series of 12-15 Y2K EXPOs being planned by the State of Florida and tentatively scheduled to begin mid-May. Due to the large client base, 2-3 hour training workshops in the area of planning, assessment, computers, embedded systems and contingency planning will be developed and video taped. The workshops and materials will be provided to assist small business and agriculture in preparing for the year 2000. Satellite downlinks will be provided once a week to allow a live Q&A after the tape of one of the workshops is shown locally.

Prepared by Thomas Hintz

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